

the movie theater shooting in Aurora, Colorado, on July 20, 2012, and all of the everyday heroes who make sacrifices for their community, including those heroes we have seen during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Nine years ago today, 12 lives were taken, 70 were wounded, and hundreds more suffered emotional trauma.

Yet even in this tragedy, we saw incredible heroism, those who carried the wounded to safety, and the first responders, law enforcement, firefighters, and medical teams whose tireless efforts saved many lives.

I would like to recognize those who lost their lives that night: AJ Boik; Jesse Childress; Gordon Cowden, whose two teenage children were in the theater when he was killed; Jessica Ghawi; Micayla Medek; Veronica Moser-Sullivan, age six, whose mother was shot in the chest and miscarried a week after the attack; Rebecca Wingo; and Alex Sullivan, who was celebrating his 27th birthday and was 1 week away from his first wedding anniversary.

I would also like to recognize the four who died while saving and shielding others: Jonathan Blunk, John Larimer, Matt McQuinn, and Alex Teves.

During trying times, it is important to remember the heroes among us who, on a daily basis, answer the call to step up for their community and especially on July 20, a day we think of as National Heroes Day.

These everyday heroes such as healthcare workers, frontline workers, essential personnel, and those who helped develop and administer the COVID-19 vaccines, among others, have been particularly visible during this coronavirus pandemic, and I would like to recognize their tremendous acts of selflessness and bravery.

Join me in saying “thank you” to the hero in your life. Let’s exhibit the same spirit of courage and service today and throughout the year.

□ 1015

47TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILITARY INVASION OF CYPRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the 47th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey’s deadly and unprovoked military invasion of Cyprus.

This is a dark time in the history of the Greek Cypriot people and a stark reminder that we must never forget Turkey’s ethnic cleansing of 200,000 Greek Cypriot people less than 50 years ago.

The tragedy that is the illegal Turkish occupation of Cyprus that occurred on July 20, 1974, continues to this very day. I speak before you at a time when the Republic of Turkey is actively engaged in an aggressive, illegal, and uni-

lateral reopening of Varosha, a once-bustling Greek Cypriot resort town and international tourist destination in the Famagusta District of the island.

Following the Turkish approach to Varosha in August 1974, the town’s native Greek Cypriot population fled for their lives, only to later be denied the right to return by the occupying Turkish Armed Forces. Many of the Varosha refugees are still alive today, yearning to go back to their homes, while President Erdogan has moved to reopen Varosha to tourists.

The suffering in Cyprus is not just limited to Varosha. The Turkish Armed Forces have illegally occupied more than one-third of the island. They have destroyed and converted over 500 Greek Orthodox churches to mosques in the course of their invasion. They stole over 60,000 archaeological treasures, part of Greek civilization’s cultural heritage. Their violence led to the disappearance of over 20,000 Christian icons, and even worse, 1,130 people who remain missing since 1974—five of them, American citizens.

Madam Speaker, over the years, the United Nations has taken a stand against Turkey’s illegal occupation of Cyprus, going so far as to deploy thousands of U.N. Peacekeepers to prevent further Turkish incursions into the southern half of the island. In addition, the U.N. Security Council gathered in 1984 and 1992 to pass Resolution 550 and Resolution 789, respectively, to draw red lines when it comes to Turkish activity in sensitive areas like Varosha.

Specifically, these resolutions state that the Council “considers attempts to settle any part of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants as inadmissible, and calls for the transfer of that area to the administration of the United Nations,” and that, “the area at present under the control of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cyprus be extended to include Varosha.”

As we grow one year closer to the 50th anniversary of Turkey’s illegal invasion of Cyprus, the United States must take a strong stand at the United Nations and other international fora to address the growing threat posed by Turkey, its increased aggression, and to ensure the eventual return of homes and land to its native Greek Cypriot inhabitants and reunification of this island nation.

If we, as a governing body, truly claim to stand for liberty and justice for all, we must speak in a unified voice on this issue. And it is a bipartisan issue. When he was chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, then-Senator Joe Biden promised the Greek Cypriot refugee community that they would return to their homeland, if he was ever elected President. During our first Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing with Secretary of State Blinken, he committed to me and my colleagues from both sides of the aisle that brought up this concern that the reunification of Cyprus would be a priority for this administration.

Yet, we saw our President meet with President Erdogan, and we don’t even believe the issue was brought up, so we will continue to speak out against this. I encourage my colleagues to speak out, call for action, and take a stand for our Greek Cypriot friends who need our support now more than ever.

If we are to see the end of this occupation in our lifetimes, the United States must lead the way.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KATE JENNINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker in 2016, my deputy chief of staff, Kate Jennings, first joined our office. After working with political greats like then-Senator Barack Obama and Senator DICK DURBIN, our team was lucky that Kate would be bringing her passion and her dedication to our work.

Over the next 5-plus years, there would not be one day when Kate didn’t put the people who we serve at the very heart of everything she did. When COVID-19 hit Illinois last year, our office learned of a family sheltering in a hotel, unable to feed themselves or feed their children. So in the middle of this spreading pandemic, what did Kate do? She put herself at risk, went to the grocery, packed a box full of food, and delivered it to the door at the hotel where this family was sheltering so the children would not go hungry.

And every year, Kate would take Valentines to our veterans to make sure that they knew that they were appreciated and that they were loved. She would travel thousands of miles across our vast Congressional district, and was unwavering in her hard work for all 14 counties in our district. She never tired and always worked to lift up the voices of the people that were fortunate enough to be able to serve.

Madam Speaker, Kate recently began her next chapter, and our entire team and our office and I wish her well on her new adventure. This week, as we continue to strive to always deliver for the people, I can think of no better celebration than to thank the person who spent nearly 2,000 days in our office putting the people we serve first.

Madam Speaker, I thank Kate for her dedicated service, her hard work, and her friendship for so many years. Everyone on our team knows that she will continue to deliver for the people of Illinois.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAYMOND JONES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Mr. Raymond Jones of Saint Simons Island, Georgia, who passed away on June 21 at the age of 72.

Ray began his career with the Rich Products Corporation, working for the SeaPak Shrimp and Seafood division in Saint Simons Island. Over the next three decades, he would have a positive impact on the seafood industry and on our community. Ray was a genuine advocate for seafood sustainability and a trusted voice in meeting with Members of Congress. Ray served as chairman of the National Fisheries Institute's technical committee from 1994 to 1996, and was the technical chairman of the National Shrimp Industry Association from 1998 to 2005.

In 2017, he was recognized as the seafood industry leader for his decades of commitment to seafood sustainability and quality. Despite Ray's countless career achievements, his proudest role was as a father and grandfather.

Madam Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR BILL LIGON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Pastor Bill Ligon of Brunswick, Georgia, for his 90th birthday.

Pastor Ligon experienced the call of God at 18 years old. Since then, he founded the Christian Renewal Church in Brunswick, Georgia, and has served as its pastor for over 40 years. Pastor Ligon has served throughout the southeast, but the impact of his outreach remains immeasurable.

He is one of the founders of the Fellowship of Churches and Ministers International, with churches in eight States and three foreign countries. Alongside his wife, Pastor Ligon served for 6 years as Southern Baptist missionaries in Spain where they served churches and taught the gospel.

Madam Speaker, with his passion to share and teach the gospel, I know Pastor Ligon will continue his tremendous work at Christian Renewal Church. He has dedicated his life to spreading the word of God, and I thank him for his decades of service.

RECOGNIZING REAR ADMIRAL ERIC JONES

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Rear Admiral Eric Jones for his outstanding career and service as Commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District.

Rear Admiral Jones has dedicated his life to protecting our country. As District Commander, he is responsible for all Coast Guard operations throughout the Southeast and the Caribbean Basin, which includes Georgia's First Congressional District.

Notably, under his command, Coast Guard members responded when a cargo ship capsized in the Saint Simons Sound. This rescue effort was heroic and saved all 24 people on the ship.

During his time, Rear Admiral Jones has provided extraordinary leadership and management to the United States Coast Guard. His service has been marked by excellence and has received significant recognition, including four

Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and various service and unit awards.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Rear Admiral Jones on his next duty assignment and thank him for his years of service to Georgia's First Congressional District.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOBBY CARPENTER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Mr. Bobby Carpenter, who passed away on June 25 at the age of 89.

Bobby graduated from Richmond Hill High School in 1948. Following graduation, he served in the U.S. Navy for 4 years. Once back home, Bobby served as the postmaster of the Richmond Hill Post Office and received his official commission from President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Bobby also served as the president of Bryan Neck Cemetery Association for 50 years, church treasurer for 25 years, and a member of the Bryan County Board of Education. He enriched the lives of all who knew him and loved him, and he leaves behind a legacy of kindness, faith, and love.

Bobby's dedication to improving the lives of others will never be forgotten. Richmond Hill sorely misses him. My thoughts and prayers are with Bobby's family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

NATIONAL HEROES DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CROW) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, 9 years ago today, Aurora, Colorado, faced an unbelievable tragedy when a shooter opened fire in a movie theater.

Madam Speaker, 12 people lost their lives, 70 were injured, and countless others are still impacted by the trauma of that day.

Every year, Aurora and the greater Colorado community come together to remember the lives lost and the trauma. We also come together to recognize the everyday heroes that stepped up to help their neighbors and loved ones. Their heroism saved lives.

I thank my friend and colleague, Representative ED PERLMUTTER for, again, offering a resolution to designate July 28 as National Heroes Day. This year, in particular, we recognize the everyday heroes that have helped us withstand this pandemic, our frontline workers, scientists, and healthcare professionals, and the first responders who stand on the front lines every day.

As we reflect today, let us also be galvanized into action. In the 9 years since the Aurora tragedy, little has been done at the Federal level to reduce gun violence and mass shootings. Enough is enough. I am here, in part, because I have been inspired by my constituents who endured incredible tragedy 9 years ago and have directed that pain to fight for change. Let us not grow numb to the pain of this day, but let's continue to work toward meaningful and lasting change.

NATIONAL PENNSYLVANIA DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize July 20 as National Pennsylvania Day. Pennsylvania's nickname, the Keystone State, represents the central role we played in shaping our Nation. Our great Commonwealth was the second State to join the Union and continued to lead the way in making history.

As the first capitol of our Nation, many great decisions were made in Philadelphia. It was there our Founding Fathers authored the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution forming this great Nation. Pennsylvania served in an important role in key military operations. Valley Forge tells a story of sacrifice, leadership, grit, and determination when our ragtag military was attempting to defy history and defeat a global superpower.

The Battle of Gettysburg marked a turning point of the Civil War, providing the Union with the momentum to bring our great Nation back together. Our State continues to carry the legacy of many firsts, from the first American flag sewn by Betsy Ross to the first commercial oil well.

Our inventor spirit continues to weave through history, from Benjamin Franklin, Robert Fulton, and Jonas Salk. We continue to bring new and exciting ideas forward. Our legacy of American craftsmanship and work ethic runs deep, from our steel mills and coal mines to our farmlands and forests.

Madam Speaker, as a lifelong resident of Pennsylvania, I am encouraged each and every day by the industrious spirit of our residents as we continue to build a bright path forward for our commonwealth and our country.

Happy Pennsylvania Day! I am proud to be from our great Keystone State.

□ 1030

HOT FERC SUMMER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, I trust most of my colleagues have heard of "Hot Girl Summer" and the broader Megan Thee Stallion oeuvre.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to declare the start of "Hot FERC Summer," with FERC, of course, being the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Why, you might ask? Well, to paraphrase Ms. Stallion, because now that FERC has put in all that work, it is time for them to be the MVP.

Now, some might say that FERC isn't, dare I say, hot enough to warrant that attention. But for those of us who are serious about fighting the climate crisis, they sure should be.

The Commission ensures our energy markets, generation, and transmission